



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS LEXINGTON (AVT-16)
FLEET POST OFFICE
MIAMI, FLORIDA 34088

AVT16:17:hck
5720
Ser 860

26 SEP 1981

From: Commanding Officer, USS LEXINGTON (AVT-16)
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-09BH)

Subj: Command History (1 January to 31 December 1980); submission of,

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12C
(b) CNO ltr NHC/SH Ser 2150 of 5 August 1981

Encl: (1) Copy of CO, USS LEXINGTON (AVT-16) ltr 5720 Ser 153 of 23 Feb 1981
with enclosure

1. The original of enclosure (1) was submitted to CNO (OP-05D) on 23 February 1981 as required by reference (a), with copies to addresses reflected in enclosure (1).

2. As requested by reference (b), enclosure (1) is forwarded.

W. H. GREENE, JR

Man is killed in fire on Coast Guard cutter

By HELEN DEAN
Staff Writer

An engine room fire aboard the U.S. Coast Guard cutter Durable killed one person yesterday as the ship was enroute to its home port of Brownsville.

Lt. Cmdr. Tom Pearson said the cutter was returning from routine patrol duty when the fire occurred.

Pearson, who is assigned to the Coast Guard's New Orleans division, said none of the other 70 men on board the vessel were injured in the fire.

Although the identity of the victim is being withheld pending notification of next of kin, Pearson said the victim was not from South Texas.

The ship was 270 miles east of Brownsville when the fire started about 1 p.m. The fire was extinguished about 90 minutes later, he said.

Adding that the cause of the blaze on the 210-foot cutter has not been determined.

"The main engine was damaged in the fire so she has no propulsion," Pearson said last night. "Right now, she's sitting dead in the water."

Pearson said the Navy aircraft carrier Lexington was sailing to the Durable with extra firefighting equipment "just in case its better to be safe than sorry."

The ship's generator still is working so the crew plans to stay on board, he said.

Two other Coast Guard cutters, the Achirus and the Dependable, should reach the Durable sometime today,

Pearson said. Last night, plans called for the cutters to tow the crippled vessel to Brownsville, but Pearson said "that may change at a later time."



USS LEXINGTON (AVT 16)
Fleet Post Office
Miami, Florida 34088

AVT16:17:jps
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23 FEB 1981

From: Commanding Officer, USS LEXINGTON (AVT 16)

To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05D2)

Subj: Command History (1 January to 31 December 1980); submission of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5720.12B

Enc1: (1) Command History

(2) Pertinent press clippings

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) and (2) are submitted as this command's annual history record of 1980.

W.H. Greene Jr.
W.H. GREENE, JR.

Copy to:
Director of Naval History (OP-09BH)
CINCLANTFLT
COMNAVAIRLANT

GREEN

BASIC HISTORY

(1) Command History

Commanding Officer

Captain Philip E. Johnson 30 November 1978 - 13 June 1980

Captain William H. Greene, Jr. 13 June 1980 -

LEXINGTON is homeported at the Naval Air Station Pensacola, Florida and is the Training Carrier for basic, advanced, and fleet pilot carrier qualifications. LEXINGTON is under the operational control of Chief of Naval Air Training and the administrative control of Commander Naval Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet.

From 31 October 1979 to 17 May 1980, LEXINGTON was homeported in the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard where the ship underwent a scheduled seven month overhaul.

(2) Summary of Operations, Events

On 3 January 1980, LEXINGTON was visited by United States Congressman J. (Ike) Skeilton (D, Missouri), and his son. Captain Johnson accompanied them on a tour of the ship.

On 15 January 1980, Captain Johnson participated in a memorial prayer breakfast for Martin Luther King, Jr. conducted on Philadelphia Naval Base.

During 11-18 February 1980, LEXINGTON observed Black History Week. Special literature was displayed in the ship's library with several historical awareness programs being conducted.

On 17 February 1980, LEXINGTON entered her 38th year of service in the U.S. Navy.

On 22 March 1980, Captain Johnson delivered a speech and presented LEXINGTON's Command Presentation to the Navy League of Reading, PA.

On 4 April 1980, LEXINGTON successfully passed all Light Off Examinations on the first attempt.

On 10 April 1980, LEXINGTON tested her catapults, launching "dead loads" weighing from 30,000 to 63,000 pounds each.

On 17 & 18 April 1980, LEXINGTON conducted Dock Trials.

On 21 & 22 April 1980, LEXINGTON conducted additional Dock Trials.

On 24 & 25 April 1980, LEXINGTON transited the Delaware River into the Atlantic Ocean where the ship conducted Sea Trials.

On 4 May 1980, LEXINGTON held dedication ceremonies for the Ship's Chapel which had been remodeled. Participating in the ceremony was Kenneth Scott, former MU 2, who was LEXINGTON's original Chaplain's Clerk.

On 6 May 1980, several LEXINGTON crewmembers participated in a Special Olympics for handicapped children at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

On 10 May 1980, LEXINGTON completed overhaul and got underway for Pensacola, Florida. Embarked were over 40 dependents, along with household goods and over 350 privately owned vehicles.

On 14 May 1980, as LEXINGTON entered Pensacola, Florida, a group of Pensacola journalists flew onboard via HC-16 helicopters. While onboard, journalists interviewed crewmembers and shot footage for television. Pensacola radio station, WBSR, aired a live remote broadcast from the ship. Along with the journalists was Pensacola Mayor Vince Whibbs who presented Captain Johnson with the "Key to the City". Upon arrival at Naval Air Station Pensacola, LEXINGTON was met by a large crowd of dependents and well-wishers. Rosie O'Grady's, a local establishment, provided music with a steam calliope.

On 15 May 1980, Seville Quarter, a Pensacola nightclub, hosted LEXINGTON night with free admission and special prices for crewmembers.

On 17 May 1980, LEXINGTON's homeport was officially redesignated as Pensacola, Florida vice Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

On 2 & 3 June 1980, LEXINGTON conducted inport training and refresher exercises.

During 4-11 June 1980, LEXINGTON conducted at-sea refresher training in the Gulf of Mexico.

On 13 June 1980, LEXINGTON held Change of Command ceremonies in Hangar Bay Two. Captain William H. Greene, Jr., formerly Commanding Officer, USS CHARLESTON (LKA 413), relieved Captain Philip E. Johnson as Commanding Officer, USS LEXINGTON. Captain Johnson was reassigned to duties as Chief of Staff, Commander Naval Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet in Norfolk, Virginia.

On 10 July 1980, LEXINGTON began receiving female enlisted sailors as regular crewmembers, becoming the first aircraft carrier to do so.

On 30 & 31 July 1980, LEXINGTON crewmembers previewed the movie "Final Countdown" at a local theatre. Admission was free.

On 8 August 1980, LEXINGTON held her annual Dependent's Day Cruise. The ship departed NAS Pensacola for the Gulf of Mexico where flight operations were conducted under the observation of over 700 dependents and guests. Lunch was served in Hangar Bay Two. The ship returned to Pensacola at 1800 the same day.

On 30 August 1980, several LEXINGTON sailors and midshipmen participated in a "bathtub race" against sailors from the visiting British Naval Ship HMS SCYLLA. The race was sponsored by local radio station, WBSR. LEXINGTON won.

On 5 & 6 September 1980, LEXINGTON held her annual gala Ship's Picnic onboard Naval Air Station Pensacola. Food, beverages, entertainment, and games were provided for crewmembers and their dependents.

On 12 September 1980, LEXINGTON and Chief of Naval Education and Training hosted a Civilian Orientation Cruise aboard LEXINGTON. About 800 guests went to sea for the day. Flight operations were conducted, which the guests viewed from the Observation Deck. Buffet style lunch was served in Hangar Bay Two.

On 16 September 1980, while conducting routine operations in the Gulf of Mexico, LEXINGTON was visited by a reporting team from "PM Magazine" (a popular television magazine format show dealing with human interest/feature stories) from Tulsa, Oklahoma. The team filmed material for a feature on the training of Naval Aviators.

On 18 September 1980, LEXINGTON recorded her 400,000th arrested landing. The landing was accomplished by LCDR Regula of VT-24, flying a TA-4J Skyhawk.

On 23 September 1980, while conducting routine operations in the Gulf of Mexico, LEXINGTON was visited by a reporting team from "PM Magazine" from New Orleans, Louisiana. The team filmed material for a feature on the training of Naval Aviators.

On 6 October 1980, LEXINGTON was underway for Fort Lauderdale, Florida to help the city celebrate National Port Week by hosting an Open House.

On 7 October 1980, LEXINGTON arrived in Fort Lauderdale, Florida and was met by a crowd of spectators and a high school band playing on the pier.

On 8 & 9 October 1980, LEXINGTON held Open House for the City of Fort Lauderdale. About 9000 guests showed up to tour the ship and view the static displays provided by each department.

On 10 October 1980, LEXINGTON departed Fort Lauderdale and was underway for Pensacola, Florida.

On 24 October 1980, LEXINGTON hosted a dual-purpose Navy Doctor Orientation/LEXINGTON Reunion Cruise. 200 Navy doctors and 300 LEXINGTON "Plankowners" and their families embarked on LEXINGTON for a one-day cruise in the Gulf during which the guests viewed routine flight operations and a special fly-over of WWII vintage aircraft performed by the "Confederate Air Force." The WWII veterans held a memorial service for shipmates who had perished aboard LEXINGTON during WWII. In a presentation ceremony Captain Greene and LEXINGTON received a copy of the book Men of the Blue Ghost, written by Mrs. Lee Fleming Reese, whose husband is a LEXINGTON "Plankowner." Mrs. Reese wrote the book as a history of LEXINGTON's war years; deriving her information from former crewmembers' diaries and interviews. A buffet style lunch was served in Hangar Bay Two. Also embarked was a film crew from the NBC Television show "Real People" who were filming a special on the Reunion Cruise.

On 1 November 1980, while conducting routine operations in the Gulf of Mexico, LEXINGTON was visited by a reporting team from "PM Magazine" from Corpus Christi, Texas. The team filmed material for a feature on the training of Naval Aviators.

On 4 December 1980, while conducting routine operations in the Gulf of Mexico, LEXINGTON was directed by CINCLANTFLT to assist USCG DURABLE located approximately 200 nautical miles south-east of LEXINGTON's position. DURABLE had suffered an engineer room fire that resulted in one fatality. LEXINGTON suspended CarQual operations and proceeded at best speed to DURABLE's location. When within helo range, two CH-46 helos from HELSUPRON 16 DET were launched, arriving at DURABLE at 0010, 5 December, with additional fire-fighting equipment and personnel. LEXINGTON arrived on scene at 0200. At that time DURABLE had the fire out. DURABLE'S single personnel casualty was transferred to LEXINGTON via helo and flown to Naval Air Station Brownsville, Texas. LEXINGTON remained on scene providing assistance as needed until relieved by USCG DERENDABLE at 1030, 5 December. LEXINGTON then proceeded to the Corpus Christi OPAREA and resumed CarQual operations.